

of slave property, when it had depreciated before this Convention met, before it was called, before any action was taken upon the subject in Maryland.

Now, there may be a double claim for compensation. But those gentlemen who have had control of the State of Maryland so long, do not think the claim of the poor man for compensation to be well founded. What is it that has brought the State of Maryland into the condition she is now in? Take passage on any one of our steamboats that ply up and down the Chesapeake Bay, and you will find on either hand what was originally as fine a soil as the sun ever shone upon, and yet when I came to this city on the 26th day of April, it was as utterly destitute of verdure as the sands of Arabia.

A MEMBER. What has made it so?

MR. SCOTT. The improvident, wasteful system of slave agriculture. The State of Maryland, within a few miles, any part of it, of the capital of the country; within easy reach of the cities of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, where every article of produce can be easily disposed of at paying prices; with easy access to all the ports of the world; with a climate as salubrious as any in the country, where it is rarely too cold to work; with a soil as productive as any in the United States, and a market close at hand where all that is raised can be sold, and all that is desired can be obtained. Yet Maryland has thousands and thousands of acres to-day that are not worth the taxes levied upon them; while in poor, starved New England, every foot of land is made available. And it can be from no other cause than that slavery has prevailed in Maryland, and has prevented the proper cultivation of the land; has driven away the best part of our population to find other fields of enterprise, finding none at home. You have denied the poor white man of Maryland his equal share in the advantages of government; you have cut off his children from the proper means of education. And what compensation have you to offer him for these wrongs and these losses? You have held the land in large tracts beyond his means to purchase a foot of it for a house for himself and his family.

MR. BELT. Under whose authority was it held in large tracts?

MR. SCOTT. Under whose authority? It has been the policy of the slaveholding population to hold it in large tracts.

MR. BELT. Do the slaveholders of Maryland rule this State, or do the people of the State rule it?

MR. SCOTT. The slaveholders have ruled the people. I put it to the gentleman if they have not, by means of an unequal distribution of the representation in this hall, had the control of this State? Their personal chattels have given them a representation to which they were not entitled upon any other

principle; and they have had the control, and the majority in this hall, and in the other end of the capitol. That is the plain fact. Baltimore city, with more than one-third of the white population of the State, comes down here with but ten representatives, while the smallest county in the State, Calvert county, has two representatives; a county that had only 800 men enrolled for the last draft, of whom more than 700 were exempted for physical disability. [Laughter.]

Much of this land is held in these large tracts, so that the poor man can neither buy nor lease it. It is perfectly valueless to the State, for it pays no taxes; whereas, if it were divided up into small farms and cultivated as it might be, and ought to be, it would pay ten times as much taxes as now, and make the burdens of the State lighter and furnish a fund for educating the poor.

I know one gentleman in my county, who has a manufacturing establishment which he set up there with more than \$100,000 worth of machinery in it. Yet it is perfectly idle and useless, in place of making him \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year of profits, it has not for two years turned around. That is in consequence of this war, and the high price of cotton. Who is going to compensate that man for that? That I think is a fair offset to the case of one of those children, whose property was left in the shape of slaves, the value of which has been depreciated from the same cause. Who is going to compensate that poor lone widow, whose only son, inspired by the patriotic emotions of his heart, rallied to the support of the flag of his country when the capitol was in danger, and on the first battlefield was slain? Who is going to compensate her for that loss? Who is going to compensate for the loss of the thousands and thousands of valuable lives that have been lost in this war; for all the desolated homes from one end of the country to the other? Where is the compensation for that to come from?

Every one of these gallant men who have fallen in this war—and I will say, on both sides—every one of these men who has fallen in this war on both sides, in both armies, is a murdered man, and the guilt of that murder is on the hands of the men who have instigated this rebellion. There are just as honest, and good, and well-meaning men in the rebel army as in the Union army. And every man in either army who has fallen in this war is a murdered man, and the men who have instigated this rebellion are the chief murderers.

MR. BERRY, of Prince George's. Introduce an article into the Constitution to establish a tribunal for the trial of those murderers.

MR. SCOTT. We have a tribunal already established, and we will try them when we get hold of them.

The gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Billingsley) complained bitterly about the gov-